

N.234/01

Retreat November –[18]78

1st day. I am [have come] from God, I belong to God [God's], I exist for God. —It is by love that God created me, that he has given all to me, that his eye is always fixed on me, that he has preserved me, taught me. He has waited for me to direct all my actions, my thoughts and my affections towards Him. For this, it is not only nature that he has given me, but the life of Jesus Christ: by baptism, the sacraments where for a long time he has made himself felt to me, lastly, the religious life so that the life of Jesus may be established and show itself in me.

As in the use of created things, I ought to imitate Jesus, make myself indifferent to every other thing than the choice that he makes of it for me, see them as he saw them, serve as his instrument for his aims and tend to embrace all that he loves: humility, patience, poverty, submission to rules, prayer, and even suffering that he may send me, all the while keeping myself united to him.

Why should I fear? I must lean on this creative and redemptive love, count on it to attain my goal. In time of difficulty, in danger, I must look on high, not fear solitude. God is always there. His love is jealous of all my actions and I shall try to give all of them to Him. His jealousy may be the cause of these hurts in direction that have been so hard for me. I was too human in that. At all times, I must go to Him and expect all help from Him.

2nd day — Sin. — My attention was brought to bear especially on my sins of omission and on lukewarmness, negligence in my life. I want to apply myself at last to do all things for Him and in every relation with creatures, to procure his service, say always something that makes him known, loved, turn all in my government towards supernatural views. Take more control of myself by more recollection, more regularity, more habitual mortification, more time given to prayer, first of all arrive at three-quarters of an hour of prayer, then, if I can, to an hour. Have a large and generous heart, keep nothing of the difficulties, see good everywhere and rejoice in it. Not to have exclusive ideas about the Congregation.

3rd day. —Reign of Jesus Christ.

I was touched by the thought that Jesus Christ wants to extend his reign in the heart of all, in my heart first of all, and I want to take all the means in this retreat so that He may reign in me; but also in all the other hearts, and he calls me to work ceaselessly with him to gain them for him. It is the reason why I am a religious of the Assumption, it is the aim of the 4th vow that I have made¹. I ought not to do anything, say anything, which hasn't for aim to extend this reign. I ought always have for everyone a word that tends towards the reign. —and for myself, know that the Reign of Jesus Christ is in patience, poverty, humility and suffering.

4th thy Incarnation

I found great consolation in meditating everything about this mystery, the long wait of the world, the preparation made by God through so many miracles (the Jewish People and the Immaculate Conception), the admirable virtues of the Blessed Virgin, the ambassadorship of the Angel, everything that would culminate in the state of humility, hiddenness of our Lord for which human reason raises doubts. It is the secret of sanctity that Jesus brings at the same time as salvation. And this is why the human spirit does not understand it. / 5th day. Nativity. The Holy Family turned away from all dwellings, Jesus born in such a poor and humble cave. I imagined that he called me from there as his Spouse, to unite myself to Him to make him reign in me and in others. This touches my heart more than the Warrior King who calls his soldiers. I gave myself as much as I could with the desire to deny myself and finally to enter into dependence and union with Jesus, to try to be among those who belong closest to Him and to have a desire for holiness in the full and loving acceptance of his mystery of poverty, humiliation and suffering. I begged him to do that in me since I am so cowardly and incapable of all perfect good.

6th day — Presentation in the temple. — Flight into Egypt. These are mysteries of sacrifice, of human threats, of separations, of want, but also wherein all is given to God in the offering of self, of abandon [to God] in face of trial. I asked for abandonment to God, confidence, the spirit

¹ M.Marie Eugenie and the first sisters made a fourth vow at the time of their Perpetual Vows, Dec.25th 1844: “to consecrate myself according to the spirit of our Institute to extend, by my entire life, the reign of Our Lord Jesus Christ in souls”.

of sacrifice that I so little possess. The immolated doves ought to be the emblem of religious souls. Troubles and scorn are due me on account of my interior and exterior cowardice. I would be better disposed to receive them if I were well convinced of it. The Blessed Virgin was calm, recollected, and submissive. Her heart was always united to that of Jesus. – I pray with faith rather than with enjoyment.

7th day. – I repeated the flight into Egypt, taking the point of view of St. Joseph as model of a superior. Union with God, death to himself and to human ideas which make him open to hear God. It is God's voice that he obeys; it is in dependence on God that he acts and then, simply, without giving human reasons. For me, I should not rule, decide nor respond without consulting Our Lord. Obey all that comes from Him; for the Rule, be as exact as I can, take up my spiritual reading, obey the bell, the sisters by serving their souls, my confessor in all that he judges à propos.

Abandon and confidence. – One of the big lights of my retreat is that I cannot sanctify myself without trials, that I do not know which ones God has in store for me, but that I ought to be abandoned to receive them with peace, love and confidence, that whether they come from on high or from below, from enemies, from friends, it doesn't matter. Abandonment and confidence in the love of God for me. From the Flight into Egypt, the Blessed Virgin was led to Calvary – and this was the result of God's love her. – Not to imagine a time in the future when difficulties will be set aside or everything will be settled, will go well, prepare myself rather in patience, abandon, trust in God by putting into everything the most supernatural possible. I prayed a great deal to obtain the dispositions of Jesus present in the tabernacle, that He may give me these in Holy Communion, acting Himself to transform me.

8th day. I concentrated on Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament: pray to him, adore the emptying of himself that he did for us. Penetrate myself with how this state brought the mystery of sanctity. He places himself in this state for me. It is never too late to enter in and I want to do it with all my power, which is little on account of my infidelities. But, by beginning anew every day without becoming discouraged, I will at least do something.

My resolutions are:

1. Take as motto *I have come to cast fire on earth and what do I desire except that it be enkindled.*
2. Take all things from the point of view where they serve the reign and the love of Jesus Christ. With everyone try to say something that contributes to the establishment or development of this reign and this love
3. Embrace renunciation out of love for Jesus Christ and to respond to the call to follow him and extend his reign. Renounce self in all that my nature produces, as in its strong reactions and self-seeking.
4. Place myself very often in union with and dependence on Our Lord — if I can, every quarter of an hour— trying to unite myself to his thoughts and mysteries, his presence in me and in the Blessed Sacrament. Most Blessed Virgin Mary, lead me to Jesus.